

MTNA Yard Certification Program

“Birds and Butterfly” Garden

In the “Birds and Butterfly” garden, organic gardening and naturescaping principles are applied. No synthetic pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) or ammonia based fertilizers are used. Noxious and invasive plants are removed from the yard, and a portion of your garden is planted to provide habitat and food for beneficial insects and butterflies.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Day: _____ Evening _____
Email: _____

Identification and removal of noxious weeds:

Learn the names of the plants in your yard.

Look at the state noxious weed list at;

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/weed_weedlistcommon.shtml

Use Google Image Search if you need additional pictures to confirm an id

Remove and replace any listed plants (preferably with natives

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/Go-Native/index.htm>)

Waste Reduction and Resource Conservation (choose 6)

Composting or vermicomposting (composting with worms)

Using recycled content materials in landscaping or garden amenities where possible

Borrowing or renting rarely used equipment

Using a manual or electric mower

Using other manual or electric tools

Capturing rain water by diverting downspouts into rain barrels

Using drip irrigation or soaker hoses for bed areas

Removing as much lawn as possible and replacing with a diversity of plants

Landscaping the hottest portions of your yard with drought tolerant plants

Plant trees for shade or wind break to lower home energy needs

Elimination of synthetic pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) (all that apply)

Reduce Stress

Improve soils with amendments like compost; many weeds hate good soil

Mow grass high (3"); cut only when dry, keep lawnmower blades sharp

Infrequent, deep watering of lawns and beds to encourage root penetration (water during cool times of day, very early a.m. is best, avoid overhead watering)

Weed Control

Cover all bare soil with deep mulch or groundcover plants

Remove weeds by hand

Spot control persistent problems with organic products when possible

Insect Control

Increase predator populations (ladybugs, praying mantis, etc)

Manual removal of pests

Traps

Spot treat infestations to avoid killing beneficial insects with pests

Use organic products like insecticidal soap, diatomaceous earth, etc.

Research to choose appropriate control method for specific pests. Always start with the least toxic alternative. Only use synthetic pesticides as a last resort

Fungus Control

Match plant with appropriate planting site

Baking soda (to 1 gallon of water add 1 tablespoon baking soda and 2.5 tablespoons of fine-grade horticultural oil, spray on affected plants)

Space plants to allow ample air circulation

Avoid overhead watering

Elimination of Synthetic Ammonia-Based fertilizers (choose 4)

- Leave grass clippings on lawn
- Compost or liquid compost to replace depleted nutrients
- Organic (slow-release) fertilizers
- Use nitrogen fixing cover crops
- Microbial inoculants (like soil microrhiza)
- Natural minerals for specific soil deficiencies

Food (choose 3)

Plants are the best source of foods for wildlife. Use native plants for food sources when possible. Feeders can be a supplement, particularly through the winter when natural food resources are scarce.

- Seeds
- Fruits
- Nuts
- Nectar (for butterflies, pair with appropriate host plants)
- Pollen
- Berries
- Sap
- Feeders (hummingbird, squirrel, platform, suet, seed feeders)

Water (choose at least 1)

- Birdbath (please refresh twice a week to prevent mosquitos)
- Garden pond/water feature (re-circulating, not standing water)
- Natural waterfront/shoreline
- Butterfly “puddles” (<http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/ec1549.pdf>)

Cover (choose 3)

- Unmowed meadow
- Dead tree/snag (non-hazardous)
- Bat house(s)
- Trees
- Butterfly host plants (paired with their appropriate nectar/food plants)
- Dense shrubs/thickets
- Bird house(s)
- Mason Bee house(s)